

I want to announce here tonight, that I am going to work to bring representatives of our Domestic Policy Subcommittee in the Congress here for a full Congressional hearing where preliminary to that we will gain access to the EPA's documents on this. I can promise you that, that we'll gain access to information that has not been brought forward in a full way with respect to the toxic emissions, with respect to public health impacts, with respect to the way that this thing has been set up, that the public has a right to have their health protected. And that as the person who has responsibility and jurisdiction over the EPA, I've already sent a letter to EPA Administrator Jackson to let her know that there are environmental health issues here, public policy issues, and also environmental justice issues.

We look very closely at the census track that this particular facility would be recycling. And there are compelling reasons under environmental justice principles why this should not be built. We need to involve the larger community here. It's good that you're all here tonight. We need to make sure that all of these questions that you have are on the record, are brought forward in the record and we'll put them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

And I can make one other prediction. There was a few years ago when people were rushing to try and get rid of what was then called Muni Light, now it's Cleveland Public Power, and there was someone who stood in front of the community and said, you know what? You may say that you're going to sell that system, but it's never going to happen. The people in this community made sure of that. The people in this community were the ones that helped protect what is now Cleveland Public Power.

I'm going to give the EPA a little bit of advice. If I know the people in this community, you're not going to shove this down their throats. Your bureaucratic process might be okay to satisfy some legal minutia, but it's not going to satisfy a community that is intent on protecting the quality of the air, the quality of the water, their children, their schools, their neighborhoods, the quality of health. Welcome to Cleveland.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the American Bureau of Shipping on its 150th anniversary.

What today is known as the American Bureau of Shipping, or ABS, was originally founded by John Divine Jones as the American Shipmasters' Association. Through a legislative act by the State of New York, the Association was formally incorporated on April 22, 1862.

From the time of its founding, ABS has been committed to its mission to promote the safety of life, property and the natural environment. To fulfill this mission, ABS has evolved into a global not-for-profit organization with more than 200 offices in 70 different countries.

ABS published its first technical standards, Rules for Survey and Classing Wooden Ves-

sels, in 1870. As the technology evolved, so too did ABS' rules. In 1890, ABS published its first version of the Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels. These Steel Vessel Rules continue to be revised and published annually, embodying the service, experience, and technological achievements accumulated since that first edition.

With the passage of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, ABS became the Agent of the United States Government on all matters of ship classification for government vessels. This led to ABS providing classification services for 2,710 Liberty Ships and 531 Victory Ships during World War II. This record of working side-by-side with our naval shipbuilders continues today as ABS provides classification-related services to a host of government vessels including the Navy's DDG-1000 and Littoral Combat Ships; the Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Cutter and Fast Response Cutters; and NOAA's Oceanographic Research vessels. ABS also works with the Military Sealift Command and Maritime Administration Ready Reserve Force in support of our national sealift capabilities.

ABS continues to be a leader in establishing technical standards for the commercial maritime industry as well. This longstanding technical experience has led to ABS providing over 3,000 inspections of commercial U.S.-flagged ships on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard this past year.

ABS has also provided guidance and support to the offshore energy industry for more than five decades. In recent years ABS has provided independent third party safety, security, and risk assessments to insurance, chemical, mining, nuclear power and renewable energy companies, as well as the U.S. Government.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating ABS on its 150th anniversary and in recognizing ABS' significant service to the American marine and offshore industries and our sea services. As the Classification Society of the United States, ABS continues to serve today as a vanguard to mariners, public safety, and our natural environment.

HONORING ROBERT ABRAMSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an old friend and personal hero, Robert Abramson of Cotati, CA, who turned 88 last month. Bob and his wife Barbara traveled the world for 17 years in connection with his work for the United Nations and the World Bank and were later active leaders in the United Nations Association of Sonoma County.

Born in San Francisco, Bob earned his BA in Sociology and Philosophy followed by an MA degree in Social Welfare at UC Berkeley. As a pilot in the Air Force in World War II, he flew 27 missions over Japan and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal Oak Leaf Cluster.

While at a Cessna aircraft factory in Kansas, Bob met local girl Barbara, and they married in 1945. The couple lived in the Bay Area for several years while Bob, with his social

welfare background, worked as a parole agent. During this time, he was introduced to a program at the University of Southern California that led to him setting up classes in management training in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The United Nations recognized his special talents in this field, and he embarked on a career teaching management training internationally to government officials who needed to work together to help their countries thrive in a rapidly changing world. Barbara frequently traveled as his aide, learning the niceties of social icebreakers in a large variety of cultures, including Bangladesh, New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Brunei.

"Since Bob spoke only English fluently, we worked in former British colonies," says Barbara. "The colonials had kept the people in menial jobs, and Bob trained them in modern methods of governance." He was committed to ensuring that the new leaders of fledgling democracies had the skills to run their countries for the benefit of their people.

Bob was also a Professor of Public Administration at the University of Pittsburgh where he trained leaders in U.S. agencies that worked abroad.

The U.N. had a mandatory retirement age of 65, but Bob continued to take short-term work assignments for a number of years. The couple retired to the Bay Area where their best friends lived in Sonoma County. Twenty-two years ago, they settled in Sonoma themselves and became active in the United Nations Association of Sonoma County, a group whose purpose is to build public understanding and support for the United Nations and to foster constructive U.S. leadership to make the U.N. more effective. Bob served as President for four years and Membership Chair for many more ("because he has a good head for details," according to Barbara).

The Abramsons have two children and two grandchildren. Daughter Julie lives in southern California, and son Bruce lives in Healdsburg. Growing up, the children lived in different countries with their parents and experienced a broad view of global culture.

Mr. Speaker, I admire Robert Abramson's respect for different cultures and the passion he conveys for demonstrating that the path to peace is to engage cooperatively with other countries. His work and his volunteerism have exemplified the best of this approach. Please join me in honoring him on this special occasion.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. TONY J. SUSTARSIC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Tony J. Sustarsic, the former Mayor of Euclid, Ohio.

Born in 1925, Tony was a lifelong resident of Euclid, Ohio and graduated from Euclid Central High School. Before he began his career in politics, Tony bravely served his country as a member of the U.S. Army's 3d Armored Division during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the Normandy Invasion. During his service, he suffered almost a dozen injuries and was later honored